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The Berlin Appeal

The Bureau of the World Peace Council met in Berlin from March 31st to April 2nd 1957 to consider the next steps to be taken in the world struggle for peace. At this meeting the Bureau drafted the "Berlin Appeal" which is printed in full below:

Test explosions are now being carried out that release Strontium 90 into the air, contaminating both land and water. Such contamination can result in cancer and leucaemia. The tests, if they go on, will for generations undermine the health and threaten the lives of men, women and above all children.

Atomic war is certain to exterminate millions of people and devastate continents. No country, no people, wants such a war. Yet it is openly being prepared. Fatalism is growing.

The United States and the Soviet Union are continuing their H-bomb tests. Great Britain is now joining in.

We demand that these tests should cease. We demand an immediate truce.

This would enable us to save the lives of our children. It would advance the governments towards agreement to eliminate atomic weapons and banish war itself. If voices are raised in every country they will be heeded. We can still avert the peril.

Berlin, 2nd April 1957

The Bureau of the World Peace Council stated that this "Berlin Appeal" was being addressed to the whole world, and asked people everywhere to spread the appeal and to seek support for it by the collection of signatures or by any other means.

GROTEWOHL WARNS OF A-WEAPONS

"Counter-Measures Inevitable"

The stationing of atomic weapons in West Germany, and the arming of West German Wehrmacht units with such weapons will inevitably force the German Democratic Republic to take countermeasures, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl announced in the People's Chamber on April 3rd.

Here are the main points from the Prime Minister's statement:

"General Norstad, NATO commander in Europe, has announced that the West German army will be provided with quantities of atomic weapons. The German militarists themselves have their own plans for producing atomic weapons. A new West German army, equipped with atomic weapons and commanded by Hitlerite generals such as Speidel and Heusinger will inevitably plunge the peoples of Europe into disaster and chaos, if it is allowed its way.

"Today West Germany has become the NATO state in which the largest concentration of the most dangerous American atomic weapons has been stationed. The Adenauer government brags about the accumulation of American atomic weapons in West Germany, and demands that even more such weapons should be supplied. This is the clearest sign of the aggressive criminal plans of the ruling circles in the Federal Republic.

"The militarists should give heed to the fact that the stocking of extermination weapons in the Federal

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Republic and the attempt to arm the West German Wehrmacht with such weapons will inevitably force us to take counter measures, including air raid precaution measures for the population.

"The German people want neither atom cannon, atom rockets nor atomic and hydrogen bombs in West Germany. We do not want to perish in an atomic war; rather we wish to build a better and a finer life with the aid of the peaceful utilisation of atomic energy.

"By permitting the stationing of American atomic weapons in the Federal Republic the Adenauer Government commits a great crime, for the consequences of which it will have to answer to the German people.

"We recall again today the proposals which we made earlier to bar the danger of atomic war from Germany. These proposals were:

1. All propaganda and all preparations for atomic war on German soil should cease.
2. The governments (of East and West Germany) should conclude an agreement on the renunciation of atomic weapons, and should mutually renounce the manufacture of atomic weapons.
3. The two governments should strive, jointly or severally, for a ban on the stationing of atomic cannon and other atomic weapons on German soil.

"We believe that these proposals are more pressing than ever, and that the highest interests of our people demand that they should be put into effect without delay."

In the further course of his government declaration, Prime Minister Grotewohl criticised the West German participation in the plan for a "Common European Market". He said:

"The measures announced by the states participating in the 'Common European Market' will involve a customs barrier running right through Germany, and will thus lead to a conversion of the present internal German trade into foreign trade, with all the consequences. This will obviously directly deepen the moat between the two German states.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic must also point out that the plan for a customs union of the six West European states will bring great dangers for the security and independence of all the states of western Europe. The people of France, Italy and the other states participating should never forget that in the past decades the German imperialists have twice attempted to subject these countries to their imperialist yoke."

Prime Minister Grotewohl greeted the proposals that had been made for a "thinned-out" zone of armaments in Europe. He said:

"Of great importance would be a thinned-out zone in Europe, as has been proposed once again by the Soviet Union at the London Disarmament Conference. The creation of such a zone, which as a first step could include the two German states and the neighbouring states, could create in the heart of Europe a peace area which would be freed of military tension and the arms race. Such a zone of relaxation could give a mighty push towards the conclusion of far-reaching disarmament pacts."

Adenauer Wants H-Bomb

The West German Wehrmacht will have to be armed with H-Bombs "one day", West German Chancellor Adenauer told a press conference in Bonn on April 5th.

In reply to a question on the arming of the new Wehrmacht with atomic weapons, Chancellor Adenauer replied:

"We must distinguish between the tactical atomic weapons and the bigger atomic weapons. The tactical weapons are nothing more than a further development of artillery. We can naturally not allow our troops not to participate in the newest developments in this field of armament. We do not have any of the bigger weapons: but we can see how things are going from the fact that Great Britain has declared its intention to become a nuclear power. A big development is in progress, and we Germans cannot call a halt to this development... I do not believe that the possession of such weapons will expose us to atomic retaliation."

The Hamburg "Welt", one of the main West German Newspapers, reported the press conference unter the streamer headline "H-bombs for the Federal Republic?"

TWO-AND-HALF MILLION WORK SHORTER WEEK

Nearly two and a half million workers in the German Democratic Republic were working three hours less every day by the beginning of April.

Despite the cut in the working week from 48 hours to 45 hours, their pay packets remained the same.

The general cut in the industrial working week began on January 1st, when eleven large engineering works made a "pilot run" to ensure how the change-over could be made without dislocating productign. The main problems to be solved involved:

a) careful planning of production hours so as not to over-load still further the electric grid, already stretched to capacity;

b) Reorganisation of train and bus schedules in accordance with the new hours of work; and

c) Inner-factory reorganisation to solve problems of overlapping shifts, time off, and other technical points.

After experience in tackling these problems had been gained in the pilot plants, fifty-three further large factories, mostly in the metal industry, went over to the 45-hour-week at the beginning of February. By the beginning of March a total of about 1,500,000 workers in heavy industry had gone over to the shorter week, and they were joined on April 1st by nearly one million more workers in the building trade, chemical industry, textiles, printing, and many branches of light industry. By June the great majority of East Germany's industrial workers will be working fewer hours, and the change-over is expected to be completed in all branches of industry and transport by August.

The introduction of the shorter working week was planned as the first step towards a general reduction of working hours to 42 weekly by 1960.

Social-Democrat Arrested

West German police arrested leading Social Democrat Dr Viktor Agartz on March 27th on charges of "illegal contacts with the East German trade unions".

Dr Agartz, one of the leading theoreticians of the West German Social Democratic Party and trade unions, was charged with having received money from the East German trade union federation.

"LET'S LEARN FROM HITLER"

— West German Admiral

Admiral Heinrich Gerlach, chief of the organisation department of the new West German navy, believes that the nazi period was a valuable period of German history, and that at the right time a new "Fuehrer" will arise to lead Germany.

This was disclosed by the West German newsmagazine "Spiegel", which reprinted on April 3rd 1957 extracts from a memorandum drawn up by the Admiral in May 1951, just before he was called back into service by the West German authorities. Here are some passages from this memorandum:

The German thinks and feels in a soldierly way. He subjects himself easily and willingly to a soldierly community, and is prepared to give his full trust to those placed over him . . . I place my fullest trust in this aspect of the German character.

How should this new Germany look, this new Germany for which it is worth living and dying? The new building must naturally be erected on the foundations of the past, a principle which is of particular importance in rebuilding the Wehrmacht . . .

If we wish to learn from these experiences it is necessary to regard National Socialism and the whole period of the Third Reich as part of our German history. I for my part make no attempt to conceal the fact that I do not consider everything from this period as reprehensible error.

The development of the totalitarian state was not just the responsibility of this one man (Hitler, ed.). He was simply the exponent of a development for which the time was ripe. The National Socialist philosophy was in fact nothing new. Adolf Hitler only converted into political reality something which others had thought before him, and which some of them had expressed very well. National Scialism had its roots in the preceding thirty to fifty years of European and particularly German history. The practical steps to put it into operation were by no means always inadequate. Many mistakes were made, but much was done which was so excellent and which fitted so well the conditions of the time and the character of the people, that we must undoubtedly utilise these experiences in the future.

Naturally I do not wish to minimise the shortcomings of the regime . . . I believe that these shortcomings sprang from the fact that Adolf Hitler unfortunately did not rely on the old leadership section of our nation, but upon the mass of small men. Let us imagine what would have happened if the first thousand supporters of a party leader of Hitler's calibre had been mainly drawn from the circles of the good solid middle class, the church and the officers' corps! I am sure that with such a party and with such an 'old guard' our history would have taken a totally different course.

To sketch a picture of our new Germany, a picture which we should make our programme, the ideal of our new German Wehrmacht, we must visualise something like this: a strong central state authority, in which local authorities too should be led by visible responsible persons, with a governmental programme of a Germanic solution of the social question . . .

It is naturally clear to me that this new ideal cannot be put into practice today or tomorrow . . . 'Fuehrers' cannot just be summoned from the ranks, they are a gift from heaven. We can only hope that when the time comes the right man will be there, and that he will find the right collaborators.

E. Germany Polls in June

East German electors will go to the polls on June 23rd in elections to all local authorities ranging from the county assemblies down to the village councils.

A total of about 190,000 seats have to be filled in county assemblies, district couhcils, town councils and village councils.

Full details on the organisation of the election have not yet been published, but it is expected that the various parties and organisations represented in the National Front will present a coalition list of candidates to which the elector will be asked to give his approval. Before the actual polling takes place all candidates nominated by the parties must present themselves to the electors in their ward, and electors have the right to challenge their nomination.

The electoral law has been altered so as to reduce the size of the average electoral ward, and to increase the number of councillors in each of the representative bodies. The average number of councillors in district councils will be increased from 30 to 50, and municipal councils in large towns will increase their membership from about 75 to about 130. The decrease in the size of the ward has been decided upon to enable councillors to maintain more intimate contact with their constituents than was hitherto the case.

News in English for the Middle East

Democratic Germany has just opened a new radio service for listeners in the Middle East. For a start the new service will bring half an hour of news and comments in English from 1630 to 1700 GMT every day with the exception of Sunday. The special programme, which is beamed to the Middle East, may be heard on the wavelength of 30.83 metres. At a later date it is hoped to extend the service.

Workers Committees Postponed

The election of workers' committees in the nationally owned factories in East Germany will be postponed until after the municipal elections in June this year, Deputy Prime Minister Fred Oelssner announced on March 29th. In the meantime the experience gained by a number of committees elected earlier this year will be studied, he stated.

The scheme to elect workers' committees which should help to run the factories was originally mooted by the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party in November last year. The original proposal made only tentative suggestions as to the extent of the control and co-determination to be exercised by these committees. It was suggested that committees should be elected in a small number of factories as a first step, to determine in practice how such committees could function, before the proposal was given concrete legislative form.

You Ask – We Answer

WHAT ABOUT REFUGEES?

"We still read from time to time in our papers about hundreds of people 'fleeing from East Germany'. What is the true picture?" M. M., London

To get this question into something like a true perspective it is important to recall the pictures in British papers recently showing thousands of people who want to emigrate queueing up in front of the agencies which deal with emigration to Australia, Canada, and other places. You could put a caption underneath "Thousands Flee Britain".

Ever since the end of the war there has been a very considerable flow of population across the borderline through Germany, a flow which has gone both ways. There are no really reliable figures showing how many people have moved, since particularly in the early post-war years there was no reliable registration on either side, and the position was complicated by the millions of Germans removed from the Polish territories east of the Oder-Neisse frontier who had, of course, no permanent domicile in either part of German inside the post-war frontiers.

It would however be idle to deny that the net migration from East to West has been larger than the migration in the contrary direction. This is shown by official statistics recently published in the German Democratic Republic, in the Statistical Yearbook for 1955, which show that the total population of the Democratic Republic fell from 19,066,000 to 17,944,000, a drop which cannot be explained by any significant change in birth rates or mortality figures. There are many explanations for the movement: a general westward drift of expellees, repatriated prisoners of war and former nazis who found the atmosphere in the west more congenial; the reuniting of families torn apart by the war; the emigration of various social groups who found life in a state building socialism unrewarding for various reasons. East German leaders have subsequently admitted that some of the early measures applied in the building of socialism had been too harsh, or falsely applied, and had thus caused valuable members of the community to decide to move west.

But certainly in the past few years the main reason for the drift has been the "lure of the golden west". West Germany, thanks largely to large injections of American dollars, undoubtedly recovered from war time stresses more quickly than East Germany, at least on the surface, and the attraction of "cake today" rather "cake tomorrow" proved irresistible for many people.

Some interesting light has been thrown on the problem recently by an official investigation carried out by the West German Government, reported on by the London "Times" on March 20th 1957. Here are some passages from this "Times" report:

"An official investigation into the reasons why east Germans flee to the Federal Republic has produced some surprising results, disconcerting for both Governments. Less than a third had political motives, and the remainder were attracted primarily by the higher living standards and opportunities for personal advancement here. On the other hand, 84 % of the persons interviewed were Marxists of various degress, of whom 6 % were convinced Communists.

"These investigations carried out by the west German Ministry for All-German Affairs covered several hundred workers previously employed in east German State-owned industries. The Ministry points out that the results cannot provide a representative picture because the enquiry was restricted to the working class. Nevertheless it is revealing, especially as refugees are prone to claim that they were victims of political repression or terrorism.

"Of the men interviewed some 30 % were openly in search of higher living standards, another 30 % mentioned personal reasons, about 8 % had been disappointed in their professional or political careers, and 5 % were generally discontented. Only 27 % claimed political motives, ranging from fears of persecution to personal danger.

"Politically, 35 % of the men were Marxists, 17 % showed strong Marxist tendencies, 26 % were partly influenced by Marxism, and 6 % were convinced Communists.

"These figures destroy the romantic illusion of 18 million east Germans eager to cast off their chains, and indicate that many choose television rather than freedom. This is disconcerting — not least because television programmes here are decidedly more dismal than in Britain — though it can, of course, be argued that the average German is not particularly interested in freedom, or that the intellectual at least is attracted more by abstract ideas than processes and procedures . . ."

A similar investigation has also been made in West Germany on the attitudes of young people who have recently moved there from East Germany. Reporting on the results of this investigation on March 29th, the Hamburg newspaper "Die Welt" stated:

"The report . . . shows that the number of political refugees is very small indeed. In reality the reasons for crossing the zonal frontier are more often of a personal nature. Of the five thousand young people who passed through the camp near Giessen, only a few percent had come for political reasons. Instead of this they gave as their reasons: inquisitiveness, the quest for adventure, and above all the hope of a pleasant, easy, and luxurious life in the so-called golden west.

"The mere listing of the motives given shows that these people are moved by negative rather than by positive motives, and that the new arrivals cannot by any means be described as an elite . . . More than half of the young people came from broken families. More than one third were half orphans or full orphans, and the wardens in the camp say resignedly: 'There are more and more juvenile deliquents among them.'

"They arrive full of demands to have a share in the material prosperity without being willing to do their share of the work. Misunderstood accounts of the 'fairyland' west of the zonal frontier have . . . become daydreams which do not check with reality . . . On the other hand we should not exaggerate, since research shows that 'only five percent of the intake are primarily asocial'."

Religion in East Germany III

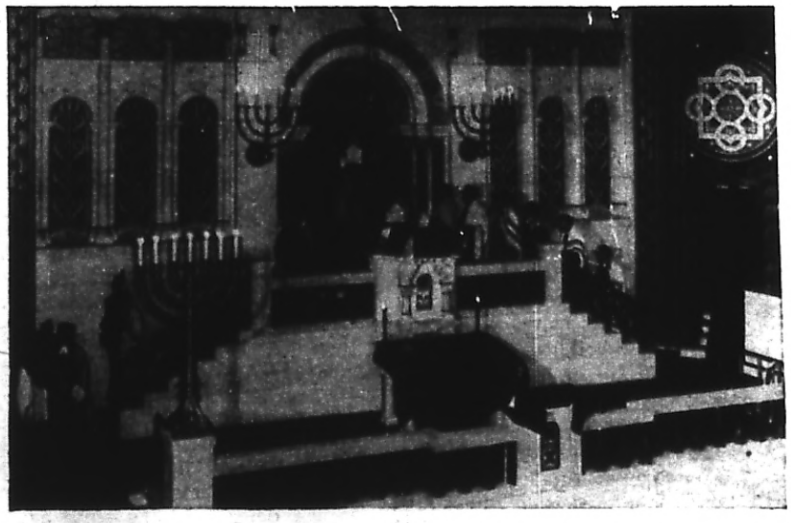
THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rabbi Martin Riesenburger, leader of the Jewish Community in Berlin and of those in the Republic, gladly told us about the position of the Jews here.

"Our Jewish community" he said, "lives exactly like everyone else in the German Democratic Republic. But you will be interested to hear about their religious institutions.

"In addition to the synagogues which can still be used, we have been able to open four new ones — in Erfurt, Dresden, Halle and Magdeburg — with the help of the government. In Erfurt and Halle we also have Cantors who direct the religious schools. On a recent trip through the Republic I found that all Jewish cemeteries are now in perfect order.

"The biggest synagogue, with accomodation for 2,000, is in Berlin. The government of the German Democratic Republic has had this synagogue fully restored and it was dedicated in 1953. The Jewish Old People's Home in Berlin-Niederschoenhausen has fifty inmates, amongst whom are some former prisoners of the Theresienstadt concentration camp. There is also a kosher butchery which is under the control of the Rabbi.



East Berlin's rebuilt Synagogue, with a capacity of 2000, the largest in Germany

"The big cemetery in Weißensee, where 113,500 persons lie buried, is now being fully restored. Jews from both East and West Berlin are buried here.

"There are eight Jewish communities in the German Democratic Republic, and these are grouped within the Association of Jewish Communities. They receive financial and other assistance from the government.

"The Jewish Community in Berlin, and especially its Rabbi, have close and friendly relations with the government of the German Democratic Republic and with the Berlin city administration."

(Reprinted from "Nouvelles d'Allemagne", Berlin)

SS MARCH AGAIN

West German Paper Protests

The SS Associations who are allowed to exist in a Germany which they, as the Praetorian Guard of Hitler and Himmler, helped to transform into a heap of ruins, have called upon their group leaders to mobilise the SS down to the last man. A giant march is planned for this summer which, as they say, is to be conducted as "a mighty demonstration of the true idealistic spirit of our times".

Those who misused hosts of young people are beating the drum once more. They want to march out under the motto: "We are calling on Europe". The "Europeans" they call upon are those who, after their countries had been conquered, turned traitor to their own people — Norwegians under Quisling, Dutchmen under Mussert, Belgians under Degrelle, Frenchmen who were the friends of Laval and Pétain and the rounders-up of their own people. They are calling on thousands of these people to demonstrate for Europe.

All this is possible in the very country where the spiritual instigators of that most terrible period in German history again occupy high official positions. Perhaps a Federal Minister will even be appointed to convey heartiest greetings to these curious Europeans.

Amongst those demonstrating will perhaps be some who were at that time very young, who were not involved in the crimes of the SS, but there will also be many who, if not instigators, were at least participators in the hideous crimes committed in Warsaw and Lodz, Vilna and Kovno, Belgrade and Budapest, France and Belgium, Norway and Denmark; to name only a few of these — Oradour, Lidice and the many burnt-out villages in Poland where men, women and children were shot and their houses razed to the ground.

Those who took part in these horrors now call on Europe — an unbelieveable thing, in face of six million dead. And if — as we cannot believe — this demonstration should be permitted, then everyone who sees it

must think of those innocent six million Europeans who, with the complicity of tens of thousands of SS guards, breathed out their last breath in the torture cells, prisons, gas chambers and concentration camp bunkers.

Now, instead of hiding themselves in shame, they want to emerge again, to demonstrate that what they did when they disgraced the name Germany as representatives of the German "Herrenvolk" was also done in the "idealist spirit of our times".

We do not, like those who have the least right to do so, call on Europe. We call upon Germany to defend itself against inhumanity demonstrating against humanity. We call upon the industrious, peace-loving and decent Germany to protest against a "demonstration" of the SS which will cover us with new shame in the eyes of the entire civilised world.

"Fraenkische Tagespost", 28th March 1957

BONN TEEMS WITH SPIES

— Reports N. Y. Times

Five thousand espionage and counter-espionage agents were reported today to be working around Bonn.

The report, published in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, one of the leading newspapers in West Germany, brought into the open a poorly kept secret concerning life in the shadows of the temporary capital.

The newspaper listed the multiple German intelligence organisations reborn under the patronage of West Germany but omitted the names of the numerous Western organisations in the city.

The newspaper gave the manpower strength and budgets of the West German organisations. One of the singular facts reported by the newspaper was that some organisations had been making considerable efforts to keep their own chiefs' and each others' operations under surveillance.

There are two official secret services in West Germany. These are the Bundesnachrichtendienst (the Federal Intelligence Service) and the Bundesamt fuer Verfassungsschutz (the Federal Bureau for the Defence of the Constitution).

There is also the Sicherungsgruppe des Bundeskriminalamts (the Security Group of the Federal Criminal Bureau). It also serves as the executive organ of the Federal Bureau for the Defence of the Constitution and as an auxiliary to the chief Federal Prosecutor.

This group may be called to act in capital offenses after consultation with the interior ministries of the state governments.

The Federal Intelligence Service, headed by former General Reinhard Gehlen, has a 1957 budget of 23,000,000 Deutsche marks ($5,476,000). It owns sixty-four passenger automobiles. For the sole purpose of obtaining information it has a budget of 4,900,000 Deutsche marks.

The Federal Intelligence Service employs 1,240 agents, not including persons who receive temporary assignments.

The Ministry of Defense has its own intelligence section. Its main task is to prevent the infiltration of hostile elements into the new West German armed forces, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said. It also screens civil servants and officers engaged in secret work.

Its budget, voted in two appropriations, totals 3,300,000 Deutsche marks.

The Federal Bureau for the Defense of the Constitution is engaged in the defense of the state against internal and external political enemies. Its headquarters are in Cologne.

This organisation employs 425 people and has an annual budget slightly in excess of 2,830,000 Deutsche marks. Its business is on the increase. The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung cited as evidence for this the fact that in 1957 alone this organisation placed orders for 152 safes and steel cabinets.

The security group of the Federal Criminal Bureau consists of 156 full-time men, some of whom are assigned to the protective service of the Federal President and the Chancellor.

Each state has its own security service responsible to the respective Ministers of the Interior. Each organisation is sovereign on the territory of its state. Operatives of the various Federal organisations may enter a case with permission of the indicated Minister of the Interior on whose territory the persons sought are situated.

New York Times. March 29th 1957

E. German Athletes Span World

East German Sportsmen Span World

Athletes from the German Democratic Republic took part in contests in all parts of the eastern hemisphere during 1956, from Britain in the west to China and Australia in the east.

The east German sportsmen marked up good performances in all the Scandinavian countries, in Holland, France, Switzerland, and in nearly all the countries of the Socialist block.

Athletes from Democratic Germany have so far not participated in contests in the western hemisphere, but Klaus Richtzenhain, who won the silver medal in the 1500 metre race at the Olympic Games in Melbourne has recently been invited to go to the United States to take part in various indoor athletic meets there. The invitation came from the Amateur Athletic Union of the USA.

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There is a long tradition of publishing books in English in Germany, dating in its first origins back to the publication of pirated editions of Shakespeare's works in the original tongue back in the seventeenth century. The tradition was continued by the famous Tauchnitz Series which, from the 1850's on, provided the whole of Europe with thousands of the most popular British and American novels in cheap, well-printed, paper-backed, volumes which were the predecessors of the pocket books of today.

This tradition has found its worthy successor in a slightly different form in the "Panther Books" now being published in the German Democratic Republic. The "Panther" series, which now consists of over twenty titles, includes a number of classics like Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice", but the main emphasis has been laid on books which for one reason or another have been denied publication or a proper circulation in the USA, Britain, or other parts of the English-speaking world.

As most readers will know, novels and other books falling in what may be roughly described as the "progressive" category are in many cases prevented from appearing in these countries, or can only be published in small editions by publishers who do not have available to them the usual facilities for distribution, and it is for books of this type that the "Panther" series forms such a valuable outlet.

This is particularly true of the latest volumes published in the series. First we have "Power Without Glory" by Australian writer Frank Hardy. It is an exciting semi-fictional reconstruction of Australian history for the past fifty years, and it does such a telling job of exposure that the publication of the book in Australia in 1951 led to the imprisonment of author Hardy.

Since the semi-legal first publication of the book in Australia it has been translated into dozens of languages, and published in dozens of countries: but this new "Panther" edition is claimed to be the first publication in the English language outside Australia.

The other important new "Panther" is the book "A Lantern for Jeremy" by V. J. Jerome. This is a literary event of the first importance: a brilliant and tender book about a Jewish lad in Russian Poland in 1905 by an American author. If the author had not happened to be a left-winger it would probably have been a best-seller. As things are, however, it could only be published in the United States in a small edition, and was mainly boycotted by the important literary magazines. Now the publishers of the "Panther" series have made it available in Europe.

Here is a complete list of the Panther Books now available, or to be published in the immediate future. The majority of the volumes cost 2.85 marks each: those marked with a star cost only 1.85 marks:

"Crown Jewel" by Ralph de Boissiere.
"Iron City" by Lloyd L. Brown.
"The American Century" (Anthology of modern short stories).
"The Proud and the Free" by Howard Fast.
"The Gentle Bush" by Barbara Giles.
"Power Without Glory" by Frank Hardy (2 vols).
"Goldsborough" by Stefan Heym.
"I Knock at the Door" by Sean O'Casey.*
"All Things Betray Thee" by Gwyn Thomas.
"The Scalpel, The Sword" by Ted Allan and Sydney Gordon.
"The Volunteers" by Steve Nelson.*
"The Thirteenth Juror" by Steve Nelson.
"Coolie" by Mulk Raj Anand.
"A Lantern for Jeremy" by V. J. Jerome.
"A Connecticut Yankee in King Athur's Court" by Mark Twain.
"Poetry and Prose" by Walt Whitman (An Anthology).
"Silas Marner" by George Eliot.
"Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen.
"Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte.
"The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne.
"A Dream of John Ball" by William Morris.*
"The Octopus" by Frank Norris.

War Crimes Trial

"Der Nurnberger Prozess" (The Nuremberg Trial). Ruetten & Loening, Berlin. Two Volumes. 33.50 Marks. (In German)

For many months, in 1945 and 1946, the main nazi war criminals were on trial in Nuremberg before an International Tribunal established by the British, American, French and Soviet Governments.

The crimes for which these men were tried were of such enormity and so far-reaching that the trial naturally dragged on and on. For most ordinary newspaper readers in the allied countries, who were convinced of the guilt of the accused before the trial started, the evidence brought few sensations. But in Germany itself, where the trial could have had a very valuable educational effect, the struggle to stay alive was so bitter, the country was so disorganised, and the newspapers were so small, that many people could not, or would not, learn the lessons which it taught.

In the years which have followed, the full report of the trial, probably the largest and most important in world history, was published in German, but it appeared only in a 42-volume edition so unwieldy and so expensive that it was of practical value only to historians.

Now Dr Steiniger, Professor of International Law at East Berlin's Humboldt University, has undertaken the back-breaking task of selecting and compressing into two handy volumes totalling over 900 pages the key points and documents of the trial.

Apart from his fifty-page introduction, Professor Steiniger has confined himself entirely to the trial documents, with nothing added, and he has done an excellent job of it.

For most readers the most valuable part of this two-volume condensation will probably be the hundreds of pages of nazi documents reproduced in volume two. Here there can be no question of "prejudiced enemies" sitting in judgement on a defeated foe. In these documents from the secret files of the nazi regime the nazi leaders condemn themselves out of their own mouths, and by their own orders.

Is all this past history? Unfortunately no. Here in these volumes we find the documentary condemnation not only of Hitler and Goering, who have vanished from the map, but of men like nazi General Heusinger, today Supreme Commander of the new West German Wehrmacht, and Alfried Krupp, Hitler's cannon king who is one of the hard-faced men once again running West Germany from behind the scenes today.

All the books reviewed on this page may be ordered from
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German Democratic Republic

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

In the columns of GERMAN REPORT we have so often referred to man's inhumanity to man that it is a pleasure this week to be able to give news of a little episode of "helping hands across the demarkation line", the border that runs insanely down through the centre of Germany, splitting it into two states.

Main actors in this little story are geese — eastern geese to be exact. For some unexplained reason, a flock of eighteen geese from the little East German village of Mueggendorf decided that they wanted to see the world. While the gooseherd was having a quick beer, or whatever gooseherds do when they are not attending strictly to business, the geese wandered out onto the ice which covered the river Elbe.

You can see the next act of the tragedy already opening up. That's right: the ice cracked, and away sailed the geese on an ice flow. The story would probably never have got into the papers if it had not been for the fact that a few miles below Mueggendorf the Elbe leaves the German Democratic Republic and flows into West Germany. Alert frontier guards on both sides of the demarkation line were apparently not very alert that day, for the river-borne geese swept past them without interference.

The curtain on the next act rises at Hamburg, where a fisherman out in his boat was astonished to run into a flock of geese in midstream. The birds, who by this time must have had very cold feet, were glad to be invited into the boat and rowed back to land, where the very law-abiding fisherman, instead of feasting on roast goose for a fortnight, promptly reported his catch to the police.

The police told him to give the geese his tender care while they tried to find the owner, and finally, after weeks had passed, and after the patient fisherman had spent a large part of his savings on feeding his uninvited guests, the owners of the geese, four peasants from the East German village of Mueggendorf, lodged their claim.

So far, so good. But now the whole affair got complicated. Who was going to pay for the board and lodging of the geese? The peasants in Mueggendorf were ready and willing, but they could of course only pay in the currency of the German Democratic Republic. The fisherman, on the other hand, naturally wanted to be paid in money that he could use. The whole affair swept to a deadlock. There are, of course, clearing agreements and trade treaties between East and West Germany, but nobody had ever thought of including paragraphs dealing with "upkeep expenses for flotsam geese".

But as I said at the beginning, the story has a happy ending. Sweeping down from the clouds, the Lord Mayor of Hamburg decreed that the city treasury should pay the bill for board and lodging. The geese were loaded on April 2nd on a police launch which chugged back up the Elbe, and handed them over at the border — in midstream — to a police launch from Democratic Germany, who promptly transferred them, cackling happily, to their owners.

The only point I should still like to have cleared up is how the bill for the geese will figure in the next Hamburg budget.

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Having started on animals, we might as well keep on about them to the bitter end. It takes the form of a contribution from Edith Anderson, an American resident in Berlin, who was inspired by the news from the East German zoo of Halle that the director, Professor Hans Petzsch, had succeeded after years of patient effort in doing what has apparently never been done before, crossing a sheep and a goat. The goat was a plain German nanny and her mate was a glamorous sheep with a mane from the mountains of North Africa.

Here is her contribution, for the accuracy of which we can accept no responsibility. Maybe she was kidding:

The keeper unlocked the gate of a cage that looked dark and empty and I stepped in. "Is this the cage of the nanny goat that gave birth to a — to a —?" I faltered.

As my eyes grew accustomed to the gloom I made out a dark brown shape in the back corner of the enclosure. It seemed to be aware of my question because its back humped up slightly and then humped down again.

"What is your offspring known as, scientifically?" I asked.

"You know damn well what it is known as, and don't beat about the bush with words like scientifically", said the goat sulkily, still crouching in its corner.

"The whole world is looking towards Halle with admiration on account of your splendid achievement", I pointed out. "Aren't you a little bit pleased?"

"Yes", said the goat, somewhat mollified and deigning to turn around, "but if I ever see that damn professor coming at me with one of those damn sheep again..."

"Oh, I'm sure he didn't realise how you felt" I interrupted, blushing to the roots of my hair. I added hastily, "Through your self-sacrificing attitude, through your patience, your determination to see things through no matter what the cost, you have given a practical example of coexistence which shines out across the whole world."

"If you want to have a look at the bastard it's in the box of straw over there", the madonna said kindly.

I glanced respectfully at the a — the a — a —

"All right, you've seen it now" the goat snapped "Thank you" I said. "It is hoped that through being awarded the national prize on National Sheep and Goat Day you will feel more than repaid for your pains and will go on making your unique and extraordinary contributions to international science."

"Why the hell should I always be the goat?" muttered the nanny, and returned to sulk in the corner of the cage.

In view of the fact that this is a zoological first and that it was accomplished in the German Democratic Republic, we feel we may have handled the subject rather one-sidedly (Edith Anderson adds). Permit us to expatiate. It has been genrally assumed that sheep and goats could not be crossed, especially since an attempt made in Paris in 1895 failed.

At that time the mother (also a goat) expelled the impossible embryo in an early miscarriage. The present little product, although feeble, seems to have every intention of remaining alive. It is a female and looks like its pa, having a mane. Up to now, the evolution and ancestry of sheep and of goats, as well as of the so-called "half sheep" and "half goats", has been one of the obscurer fields of zoological science. Maybe this will help. And even if it doesn't just think of the saving in getting one's woll and one's kid gloves from the same geep.

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